

their leadership doesn't want it on any bill. People need to know that.

You know, there are lots of differences here in terms of our ideas of one America, in terms of our ideas of health care policy, in terms of our education policy. I'm just telling you the differences are clear. Those are just three.

You mentioned gun safety. Did you see that ABC—did anybody see that ABC special Peter Jennings did on the NRA? Did you see it? Did you see all those people there, good Americans, going to these NRA conventions? They're good citizens. And Peter Jennings going around interviewing them, saying, "Do you really believe that Al Gore will take your gun away?" "Absolutely; I do. Bill Clinton and Al Gore, they're a threat to our second amendment rights."

There's not one living, breathing American that missed a day in the deer woods because of me. But 500,000 felons, fugitives, and stalkers could not get handguns because of the Brady bill. So, the program says that when Mr. LaPierre said that I wanted those people to die in some of those horrible shootings so then I would have some political basis to take people's guns away, their membership went up 200,000 according to the ABC—[*inaudible*].

Now, let me tell you something: The American people are smart and solid, and they nearly always get it right if they've got enough information and enough time. But you know, that's just not true. And it's not true that Al Gore proposed to take their guns away. What he said was, "If you're going to buy a handgun, you ought to have a license like you have to drive a car, that proves that you don't have a criminal background; you've got enough sense to use a gun safely." That's the radical idea he proposed.

Will any one of those NRA people lose their guns? Not unless they're crooks and shouldn't have it and present a danger to society. So I'm just imploring you. You came here tonight. Every one of you are politically active; you all show up. Every one of you know scores of people that will never come to a deal like this, not a time in their lives. But they will vote. They want to believe they are good citizens. They are good citizens. They're patriotic. They love their country.

They'll vote. But if they don't hear from you, they might just be getting this stuff over the air waves.

So I would just say to you, this is a profoundly important election. Just remember the Middle East: One day we're about to make peace; the next day we're trying to keep people from killing each other. You cannot predict the future. Life is a funny thing.

We may not have a time like this again in our lifetime. And as a nation, we will not forgive ourselves if we squander this opportunity. The public needs to clearly understand the differences, the choices, the consequences. I am completely comfortable with whatever decision they make if they do.

So that's the only thing I would like to ask you to do. Think of everybody you know, anywhere in this great country, between now and the election, and every single day, for the next however many weeks we've got—5 weeks and some odd days—take some time to make sure that they understand the differences, the choices, the consequences. And we'll have some more people like Joe Crowley in the Congress and a great celebration in the Presidential race on election eve.

Thank you, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:35 p.m. at a private residence. In his remarks, he referred to reception hosts Representative Rosa DeLauro and her husband, Stanley Greenburg; her mother, Luisa DeLauro, member, New Haven, CT, Board of Aldermen; Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom; Prime Minister Ehud Barak of Israel; former Deputy White House Chief of Staff Harold Ickes; Queens County Democratic Organization Chair Thomas J. Manton; Republican Presidential candidate Gov. George W. Bush; ABC News reporter Peter Jennings; and National Rifle Association Executive Vice President Wayne LaPierre. Representative Joseph Crowley is a candidate for Congress in New York's Seventh Congressional District.

Statement on Suspending the Immigration of Persons Impeding the Peace Process in Sierra Leone *October 11, 2000*

I have signed a proclamation suspending the entry into the United States, as immigrants and nonimmigrants, of all persons—

and the spouses, children, and parents of all persons—who plan, engage in, or benefit from activities that support the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) or that otherwise impede the peace process in Sierra Leone. These visa restrictions will immediately apply to President Charles Taylor, senior members of the Government of Liberia, their closest supporters, and their family members.

I call upon the Liberian Government to end immediately Liberia's trafficking in weapons and illicit diamonds, which fuels the war in Sierra Leone, and instead to use its influence with the RUF to restore peace and stability to Sierra Leone. Members of my administration have repeatedly made this request of President Taylor. The absence of any positive response from his government leaves us little choice but to impose these restrictions. Only when the Government of Liberia ends its participation in activities that support the RUF will the United States review this policy.

Proclamation 7359—Suspension of Entry as Immigrants and Nonimmigrants of Persons Impeding the Peace Process in Sierra Leone

October 10, 2000

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

In light of the longstanding political and humanitarian crisis in Sierra Leone, I have determined that it is in the interests of the United States to restrict the entry into the United States as immigrants and nonimmigrants of certain foreign nationals who plan, engage in, or benefit from activities that support the Revolutionary United Front or that otherwise impede the peace process in Sierra Leone, and the spouses, children of any age, and parents of such persons.

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, by the power vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including section 212(f) of the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952, as amended (8 U.S.C. 1182(f)), and section 301 of title 3, United States Code,

hereby find that the unrestricted immigrant and nonimmigrant entry into the United States of persons described in section 1 of this proclamation would, except as provided for in section 2 or 3 of this proclamation, be detrimental to the interests of the United States. I therefore hereby proclaim that:

Section 1. The entry into the United States as immigrants and nonimmigrants of persons who plan, engage in, or benefit from activities that support the Revolutionary United Front or that otherwise impede the peace process in Sierra Leone, and the spouses, children of any age, and parents of such persons, is hereby suspended.

Sec. 2. Section 1 shall not apply with respect to any person otherwise covered by section 1 where the entry of such person would not be contrary to the interests of the United States.

Sec. 3. Persons covered by sections 1 and 2 shall be identified pursuant to such procedures as the Secretary may establish under section 5 of this proclamation.

Sec. 4. Nothing in this proclamation shall be construed to derogate from United States obligations under applicable international agreements.

Sec. 5. The Secretary of State shall have responsibility to implement this proclamation pursuant to such procedures as the Secretary may establish.

Sec. 6. This proclamation is effective immediately and shall remain in effect, in whole or in part, until such time as the Secretary of State determines that it is no longer necessary and should be terminated, in whole or in part. The Secretary of State's determination shall be effective upon publication of such determination in the *Federal Register*.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this tenth day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fifth.

William J. Clinton

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., October 12, 2000]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on October 11, and